

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-01
/054 W

-----062058Z 085907 /66

R 061544Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6320

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2378

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TS
SUBJECT: GOT GIVES GO-AHEAD TO LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS
OF MAN

REF: TUNIS A-56, JUNE 17, 1976; TUNIS 2299

1. GOT HAS ADVISED BACKERS OF THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, A "LIBERAL" ASSOCIATED GROUP THAT BEGAN SEEKING OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION IN MAY 1976, THAT IT WOULD SOON RECEIVE NECESSARY PERMISSION TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING PUBLICLY. LEAGUE WAS CONSTITUTED LAST YEAR WITH A 15-MEMBER "PROVISIONAL COMMISSION" BUT NEVER RECEIVED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RECOGNITION. DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY SET UP A RIVAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE AND PROPOSED TO "LIBERALS" THAT THEY JOIN RANKS WITH PSD GROUP IF THEY WANTED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. "LIBERALS" REFUSED.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, GOT HAS NOW RELENTED AND TOLD "LIBERALS" THEY COULD GO AHEAD WITH LEAGUE IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT 7 NEW MEMBERS ON THEIR PROVISIONAL COMMISSION DRAWN FROM PSD HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE. "LIBERALS" WERE GIVEN OPTION OF CHOOSING WHOM THEY WISHED AND THEY HAVE ACCEPTED CONDITION.

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3. OUR "LIBERAL" CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT VARIOUS FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCED GOT TO RECOGNIZE LEAGUE, INCLUDING TAHAR BELKHODJA'S INCREASINGLY OPEN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, A PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 200 TUNIS PROFESSIONALS DEMANDING MORE SCRUPULOUS OBSERVANCE OF NORMAL LEGAL PROCEDURES AND RECENT MENTION IN SERIES OF LE MONDE ARTICLES ON TUNISIA (SEE TUNIS 1945) OF LEAGUE

AND ITS PROBLEMS WITH GOT. "LIBERALS" CONVINCED, HOWEVER,
THAT USG STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN KEY FACTOR
INFLUENCING GOT WHICH DOES NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE ITS
GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND HAS TAKEN POSITIVE MOVE IN
HUMAN RIGHTS AREA TO SHOW ITS SYMPATHY FOR OUR CONCERNS.
OULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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